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J. R. Rod

WINTER PLAYGROUNDS IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

A radio talk by Elizabeth Pitt, Forest Service, broadcast in the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Program, Tuesday, January 31, 1939, by the National Broadcasting Company and 99 associated radio stations.

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KADDERLY:

Here we are in Washington--with another report coming up immediately covering some of the things going on in the National Forests.

Last week Elizabeth Pitt of the Forest Service was here with a story about National Forest wildlife, and she's back with us today . . . Betsy, before you get started . . . I want to remind our good friend Ed Rogers he shouldn't get away with those pictures that he seems to be so interested in. I haven't seen them yet -- and I should like to look at them after a bit.

ROGERS:

And I can tell you they are wonderful to see, Wallace . . . ski trails . . . and grand winter scenery . . . why the snow must be 15 feet deep in some. . .

KADDERLY:

So it's a winter sports report, Mrs. Pitt has for us. Quite timely, too. Winter sports have become very popular in the last few years.

PITT:

Indeed they have!

KADDERLY:

I can easily remember when we only thought of visiting National Forests in the summertime--But now--well--more and more people are going into the National Forests these winter days looking for recreation.

PITT:

Loads of them, Wallace . . . car loads and train loads.

Ten years ago, Farm and Home friends, there were just a few people coming into the National Forests to enjoy winter sports. Last winter we had a million visitors. This winter our forest officers say there are more than ever.

Fortunately, the National Forests have plenty of space to accomodate this demand by the public for healthful winter recreation, but it has created a whole set of new administrative problems that have to be met. There are being worked out gradually, and this year the Forest Service is in the best position it has ever been to meet the demand of the public for winter recreation.

In New England and the Lake States there are 21 intensively used winter sports areas in the National Forests.

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West of the Mississippi, the best places for winter sports are almost wholly confined to the National Forests and the National Parks. In the western National Forests there are now seventy winter sports areas that are widely recognized. All in all, there are winter sports activities in the National Forests in 24 States and Alaska.

California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and New Hampshire are the States where the National Forests have the largest number of winter visitors. That's to be expected because the National Forests in these States can boast of some of the finest winter sports areas in the world.

In California, for example, the Donner Trail Area in the Tahoe National Forest is recognized as California's leading winter recreation center. It has ideal snow conditions. Local business men do about \$600,000 worth of business there a year.

The Mount Baker National Forest in the State of Washington is another outstanding winter sports center. Extensive developments have been made there by the Forest Service, and more will probably have to be made because the excellent snow conditions and the spectacular alpine scenery climaxed by Mount Baker will attract increasing numbers of winter visitors.

If next week end, you could drop down in Berthoud Pass, 65 miles from Denver, you would be visiting the most heavily used winter sport's area in the State of Colorado. Berthoud Pass has an elevation of 11,314 feet. It is in the Arapaho National Forest. The Forest Service has done its best to make the development of the area keep pace with the demands of its visitors. Here a skier has a unique choice in ski trails—he can chose a trail on the Western Slope and travel toward the Pacific Ocean, or if he likes the Atlantic Ocean better, he can choose a trail on the Eastern Slope, and head that way.

The most outstanding ski field in the East is in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire . . . this is a large glacial cirque high up on the slopes of Mount Washington called Tuckerman Ravine. The famous Dartmouth ski teams do a lot of training there. Special ski trains bring people all the way from Boston and New York to enjoy this widely known winter sports area. Climatic conditions are so favorable to snow that the fun sometimes lasts until late in June.

I've saved a special place to mention last because of Mr. Kadderly. If I'd mentioned it sooner, he'd never have let me get off the subject. It's the ski bowl in the Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon, Mr. Kadderly's home state. Wallace, you know all about that place. . . .

KADDERLY:

The ski bowl in the Mount Hood National Forest . . . Of course, I know all about it. Why, it's the finest winter sports ares in . . .

PITT:

Now . . . I was afraid you'd go off on that tack. Remember you don't live in Oregon now . . . and you may want to go up to the White Mountain Forest here in the East some day . . . By the way, have you seen the ski quarters in the new Timberline Lodge at Mount Hood? The one the Forest

Service and the Works Progress Administration built.

KADDERLY:

Not since the Lodge was completed. But I did see it the summer it was being built. I've heard that Timberline Lodge is very popular. The next time I go West, I'm going to try . . .

PITT:

Now, Wallace, don't let you mind stray from the job. The program isn't over yet . . .

KADDERLY:

You're right . . . but it's easy to let your mind stray when you get to thinking about these outdoor places. . . Well, thanks, Betsy, for all this information on winter sports areas in the National Forests. Now, we'll go on with the program.

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